

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-08 /087 W

-----181200Z 106069 /13

R 181021Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9951

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSUON USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 3058

AF FOR AMBASSADOR EASUM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, CG, AO, NI

SUBJECT: DISCUSSUON WITH GARBA: SHABA SITUATION

REF: (A) KINSHASA 2348 (B) LAGOS 3019 (C) LAGOS 3030

1. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION MARCH 17 (REF C), EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER GARBA ASKED CHARGE WHAT IS GOING ON IN ZAIRE. CHARGE PROVIDED NECESSARILY SKETCHY SUMMARY OF TOWNS TAKEN IN SHABA BY INVADERS, THREAT TO COPPER SHIPMENT ROUTE FROM SHABA AND POTENTIALLY SERIOUS THREAT TO STABILITY OF ZAIRE. SAID GROUP APPEARED TO INCLUDE FORMER KATANGESE GENDARMES BUT IDENTITY OF OTHERS, INCLUDING CUBANS, WHO MIGHT BE INVOLVED HAD NOT BEEN CLEARLY ESTABLISHED. CHARGE ASKED IF SHABA SITUATION MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE FOR OAU HANDLING.

2. GARBA SAID FMG HAD BEEN WIATING TO SEE WHAT IT IS ALL

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ABOUT AND WPO IS ACUTALLY INVOLVED BEFORE FORMING ANY VIEWS ON THE MATTER. HE SAID A ZAIREAN DELEGATION WAS SUPPOSED TO COME TO LAGOS TO DISCUSS SHABA BUT HAD NOT SHOWN UP. GARBA INTIMATED THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR NIGERIA TO PLAY SOME ROLE IN THE SUTUATION, AS HE HAD ALREADY OFFERED HIS GOOD OFFICES TO ANGOLAN PRESIDENT NETO WHEN HE WAS HERE IN JANUARY COMPLAINING ABOUT ANGOLAN IMPORTED RAIL AND OTHER

EQUIPMENT WHICH ZAIRE HAD IMPOUNDED. GARBA TOLD NETO IF HE WOULD PROVIDE A LIST OF SUCH EQUIPMENT HE WOULD PRESENT IT TO MOBUTU AND TRY TO STRAIGHTEN THE MATTER OUT. NETO HAD NOT PROVIDED THE LIST, HOWEVER, AND WHEN GARBA SAW HIM IN CAIRO RECENTLY HE SAID HE HAD NOT HAD TIME BUT WOULD GET AT IT IMMEDIATELY; THE LIST IS STILL NOT FORTHCOMING.

3. ABOUT THIS TIME IN OUR CONVERSATION, GARBA RECEIVED A PHONE CALL, REPORTING AT ITS CONCLUSION THAT GOZ HAD JUST INVITED HIM TO KINSHASA (PARA 3 REF (A)). HIS INITIAL REACTION DID NOT APPEAR TO BE PARTICULARLY ENTHUSIASTIC, PERHAPS IN PART BECAUSE OF HIS OWN TIGHT SCHEDULE IN NEXT FEW DAYS, AND CHARGE RECEIVED THE IMPRESSION HE WOULD THINK ABOUT IT AND POSSIBLY AWAIT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BEFORE ACCEPTING GOZ INVITATION.

4. GARBA CONCLUDED THIS PART OF THE CONVERSATION WITH AN URGENT REQUEST FOR WHATEVER INFORMATION CHARGE COULD PROVIDE ON ONGOING BASIS ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN SHABA. CHARGE RELATED GENERAL DETAILS OF US SHIPMENT OF MEDICINES, PARACHUTES, COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, ETC. AND SAID HE WOULD PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION AS IT BECAME AVAILABLE.

5. COMMENT. THIS CONVERSATION PROVIDES FURTHER CONFIRMATION OF REF. (B) VIEW THAT FMG LACK OF REACTION TO SHABA IS DUE LARGELY TO UNCERTAINTY AS TO FACTS OF THE SITUATION. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE NOT ONLY TO KEEP FMG INFORMED OF USG ACTIONS IN SHABA, AS SUGGESTED PARA. 4 REF (B), BUT ALSO TO
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PROVIDE FMG APPROPRIATE INFORMATION AS TO ESSENTIAL NATURE OF THE SITUATION AND IDENTITY OF THE PLAYERS IN SHABA. THIS WOULD BE IN KEEPING WITH AND SUPPORTIVE OF CLOSER CONSULTATION AND MUTUAL COOPERATION WITH FMG; IT SHOULD HELP CORRECT ANY MISCONCEPTIONS THEY MAY DEVELOP; AND IT MAY HELP GUIDE THEIR ACTION IN DIRECTIONS WE CONSIDER CONSTRUCTIVE.
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 18-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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